

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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December 4, 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commission Secretary:

As an organization with 1.4 million members in North America, we work hard to make sure that we communicate with our members while fully respecting their privacy and abiding by the rules established by the Federal Communication Commission. Unfortunately, other groups are violating our members' privacy and the law by sending mass unsolicited text messages and forcing our members to pay for these spam messages.

Our members have been receiving unsolicited text messages from organizations that are in conflict with the values and interests of our membership. These text messages are clearly aimed at causing confusion and suppressing the vote of our members. Further, these abusive practices disproportionately target Teamsters of lower income in addition to minorities and younger members who are more likely to use their mobile phone as their primary phone. Many of these members do not have unlimited text messaging plans so they are being charged for messages they never asked to receive.

Other organizations are taking advantage of alternate technical means of sending text messages in order to circumvent the law. Regardless of the technical manner in which messages are being transmitted, sending unsolicited messages is a violation of FCC rules that are meant to protect users from this kind of harassment.

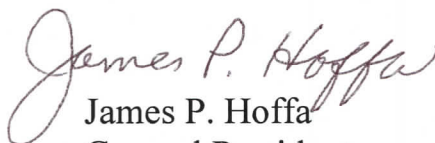
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As we strive to keep our members informed on the issues that matter to them, we value the use of low-cost technology like text messaging in order to reach our members. At the same time, we work diligently to make sure that our text messages are received only by those who have opted in to receive text messages from us. While organizations like ours are trying to use text messaging responsibly in order to increase the civic engagement of our members, anonymous groups are undermining these efforts by damaging voters' confidence in this new technology.

We believe that those responsible for spam text messaging must be held accountable.

Sincerely,


James P. Hoffa
General President

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